

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS STATE 009553

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: BANKING FACILITIES

1. CONGRESSMAN MOFFETT HAS ENQUIRED ON BEHALF OF A CONSTITUENT ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFERRING MONEY TO US FROM CHASE MANHATTAN BANK IN BEIRUT. MR. BOGHOS SHAMMASIAN, FORMERLY RESIDENT IN DAMASCUS, DEPOSITED HIS LIFE SAVINGS OF \$12,000 IN CHASE MANHATTAN/BEIRUT LAST SUMMER WITH INTENT OF TRANSFERRING IT HERE AFTER MOVING TO US. HE IS IN PROCESS OF BUYING A HOUSE IN CONNECTICUT AND NEEDS MONEY FOR DOWN PAYMENT. CHASE MANHATTAN/NEW YORK REPORTEDLY DISCLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARRANGING TRANSFER, SAYING THAT BEIRUT BRANCH IS AUTONOMOUS.

2. WE HAVE EXPLAINED BANK CLOSURE ASPECT OF BEIRUT SITUATION TO MOFFETT'S OFFICE; HOWEVER, WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY CHECKING WITH CHASE MANHATTAN/BEIRUT TO CONFIRM WHETHER THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY OF THEIR TRANSFERRING SHAMMASSIAN'S ACCOUNT TO CHASE MANHATTAN/NEW YORK. KISSINGER

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